

## OVERVIEW

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I'm very happy to have the opportunity to be here to express ARPA's interest and enthusiasm in the work in this area. I'm glad to see that enthusiasm certainly is reflected by the fine attendance from a wide range of places. Further, I'd like to apologize for Ed's absence; however, a schedule conflict has prevented his arriving before tomorrow.

I would like to offer one indication of the visibility which our Materials Science Office at ARPA feels this area should have. Recently, the Assistant Secretary of Defense sent a letter to nearly every agency in DOD describing the need for increased productivity in our manufacturing areas, as well as seeking opportunities for cost reduction initiatives elsewhere. In our response to that letter we have chosen to highlight NDE as representative of the sorts of programs that should be carried out. Hopefully, ARPA will be available to provide high visibility to DOD management of the potential of NDE research, and consequently, expand efforts such as those to be discussed here during the next three days.

Finally, I would like to say I'm very impressed with the work and thought that's been done by our host, Rockwell, in organizing this meeting. I'll only be able to be here today, but from what I've seen, I'm sure that all of you are going to have a superior meeting. We all owe them a vote of thanks for their efforts.